

CO-OPERATIVE

REVIEW



A publication for community based and worker based co-operatives in Victoria

No. 6 November 1982

MOTOR CYCLE CO-OPERATIVE

The Minister of Employment and Training, Mr Jim Simmonds officially opened Victoria's first legal motor cycle park on Saturday October 2nd, 1982.

The Frankston Motor Cycle Co-operative is funded by the Ministry's Employment and Training Co-operative Development Programme for a total of \$32,352.

\$15,588 had initially been given to the co-operative. The Minister handed over a cheque for a further \$5,588 at the ceremony. A large crowd watched the opening activities which included exhibition riding by champion motor cyclists; Mike Landman, Peter Whittington and Shane Milbourn and bike riding by Freeway Motor-cycle Club members.

The Minister of Employment and Training, Mr Simmonds said that the Frankston Motor Cycle Park will operate in 20 acres of beautiful bushland leased from the Frankston City Council. "The concept of the park is that it will revolve around the recreational use of off road motor cycles with the emphasis on providing social outings for the whole family.

"The idea behind the creation of a motor cycle park was a perceived community need and the project has been greatly assisted by community based groups such as the Neighbourhood Employment Development Programme, the Frankston Police Community Involvement Programme, the Frankston and District Motor Cycle Club, local residents and Frankston City Council."

Mr Simmonds stressed that participants would be covered by Lloyds of London for personal accident and insurance.

He said that the project had created three jobs, that of Park Manager, Canteen Supervisor and Workshop Supervisor. The co-operative currently has 2,000 members and offers riding facilities and hire for unregistered motor cycles and motor cyclists.

A repair shop will be established to provide full maintenance facilities for running repairs as well as spare parts sales and a motor cycle hire service. Instruction will be provided by experienced

riders from the support groups including the Police Community Involvement Programme, the Frankston and district motor cycle club and the Australian Institute of Advanced Motorists.

The Premier's Department Vandalism Task Force made a video of the opening activities which will be released to councils throughout the State. The video is being jointly funded by the departments of Employment and Training and Youth Sport and Recreation.

GOOD NEWS



MINISTER SUPPORTS THE CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Jim Simmonds, Minister for Employment and Training has allocated an additional \$250,000 to the Co-operative Development Programme, bringing the total financial year budget to \$850,000.

On September 30, at a meeting of all members of the Co-operative Development Programme, Mr Simmonds announced that he had reallocated an additional \$250,000, on top of the Treasury Vote of \$600,000, to the programme. This additional money will allow the Co-operative Development Programme to expand and consider some new applications for funding.

This extra funding is evidence of the Minister's strong support and ongoing commitment to the programme, and we would like to congratulate him on his decision to provide this extra money.

WHITHER THE C.D.P.?

—by David Griffiths, co-ordinator of the Co-operative Development Programme.

In the last issue of the *Co-operative Review* (No 5 October 1982) concern was expressed about the future of the Co-operative Development Programme.

I would expect, however, that the decision of the Ministry to provide an additional \$250,000 on top of the budget figure of \$600,000 will allay these concerns — after all, \$850,000 is a 40% increase on the 1981-82 allocation of \$600,000.

The *Co-operative Review* did ask a number of questions about the original budget allocation of \$600,000 and I would propose, therefore, to respond to these questions.

Why was no further allocation made?

The government's specific allocation to the programme was sufficient to meet existing commitments. The government also established broad priorities in the budget. The allocations it made gave priority to a programme for providing employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed. \$30 million was allocated to this Employment Initiatives Programme. It also increased significantly the ministry's funds for other employment and training programme, but it left the Minister to decide the priorities between the co-op and other programmes.

With whom has the CDP lost favour?

It has certainly not lost favour with the government. The Minister has demonstrated that the Co-operative Development Programme is a priority.

Will Mr. Simmonds be able to grant more money from the ministry?

The Minister has allocated an additional \$250,000. Quite clearly, therefore, the Minister regards the programme as important.

What is the government's policy on continuation of the CDP?

The government does not yet have a policy on the continuation of the CDP. It continues as a three year experiment. The Minister for Employment and Training considers the programme important because it could provide considerable insights into the possibilities of long-term job creation, the structure and organisation of workplaces and work and

worker and/or community ownership and control of business enterprises. The continuation of the programme beyond 1982-83 will be subject to a review of its achievements and potential.

Is the reference on page 56 of the budget estimates which refers to \$600,000 for loans and expenses a misprint?

There is no misprint. The \$600,000 can be used for grant or loan purposes. The appropriation will allow loans to be made. The question of whether loans should be made available under the programme is currently being examined.

Will co-operatives in the programme be able to apply for monies under the new Employment Initiatives Programme as well as from the CDP?

The Co-operative Development Programme and the Employment Initiatives Programme are different programmes with different objectives and conditions. While it is not expected that many of the existing funded groups would receive funding under the Employment Initiatives Programme, funding may be justified if a co-operative is able to meet the objectives and conditions of that programme. It is also possible that some groups funded under the Employment Initiatives Programme might have the potential to develop into co-operative business enterprises.

The future of the Co-operative Development Programme is critically dependent upon the actual and perceived achievements and potential of the programme. In considering achievements, a number of questions are relevant e.g.

- Are the funded co-operatives becoming self-sufficient?
- What are the indicators of this self-sufficiency?
- Have the co-operatives established alternative ownership and control models for workplaces and work?
- What difference does worker and/or community ownership and control make to a business enterprise?
- Are the funded co-operatives becoming dependent upon government subsidy?
- Have the co-operatives demonstrated a commitment to employment growth which does not jeopardise their viability?
- Are the co-operatives operating in the mainstream economy?

- Is productivity higher in a co-operative business than in a more traditional business?
- Is job satisfaction higher in a co-operative business than in a more traditional business?
- How many jobs have been created in the CDP?
- What is the cost per job created?
- What are the possibilities for these jobs continuing?
- What is the potential for further job creation?
- What are the alternative possibilities for generating jobs?

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PLANNING GROUP

1982 meeting timetable:

Time: 4pm — 6 pm.

Vocational Orientation
Centre.
42 Cardigan St.,
Carlton.
Ph: 347 7611 x 256.

Dates:

November 16, 30.
December 14.
January 4, 18.
February 1, 15.

FEBRUARY CONFERENCE

Interested co-operative members are asked to mark in their calendars the week end of February 11th (Friday) to the 13th (Sunday). This is the date of a conference to be held for all C.D.P. co-operatives and to take place at Erskine House, Lorne. Sponsored by the Education and Training Unit. The agenda is yet to be set so all suggestions will be accepted.

Further information will be forwarded to co-operatives as details come to hand.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

Has your co-operative submitted material to a recent edition of the *Co-operative Review*? We seek involvement from co-operatives and hope to publish your material or pursue areas you express interest in.

Please do phone Karina, Tony or Wendy at the VOC (347 7611 ext. 256) with ideas for material for future editions